

[24th July, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

**Involvement of officers of MMTC in fraudulent rice deal**

17. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the senior officers of MMTC have been promoted inspite of their clear involvement in the M/S K.J. International's fraudulent rice deal with MMTC; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) (a) and (b) No, Sir. Two senior officers of MMTC were selected for promotion by the Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) long before the charge-sheets were served on them, and promoted which is as per the extant instructions. The disciplinary authority awarded appropriate penalty to these officers subsequently.

**National Renewal Fund**

18. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the achievements made by National Renewal Fund;

(b) the budget allocation for 1999-2000 and current financial year; and

(c) whether Government propose to abolish this fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) Assistance from National Renewal Fund (NRF) had been provided for the Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) and the scheme of counselling, retraining etc. of workers rationalised from the organised sector. VRS assistance has been made available to Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs). According to information available, 1,37,366 employees have availed of VRS as on 30.6.2000. Under NRF, Employees Assistance Centres (EACs) have been set up to provide counselling, retraining of workers to facilitate their redeployment. 66 EACs set up under NRF are managed by 12 nodal agencies spread all over India and have retrained 48,781 employees rationalised from organised sector as on 30.6.2000.

(b) NRF had been maintained in Public Account till 1998-99. In RE: 1999-2000, there was a provision of Rs. 174.05 crores for Grant-in-aid to